

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 08080 100623Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00
ACDA-07 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /078 W

-----100629Z 013799 /12

R 061309Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3902
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8080

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT--PARAS ONE & TWO)

EO 1652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR NMUC IN
SUBJ: SALE OF A-7S TO PAKISTAN

REF: A. STATE 128399
B. STATE 128688

1. THE DCM, ON JUNE 6, INFORMED JOINT SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAS MADHAVAN OF THE US DECISION AGAINST THE SALE OF A-7S TO PAKISTAN. HE STATED THAT THE REASON FOR THE DECISION WAS THE US ARMS SALES POLICY AS IT RELATED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW MAJOR SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS SYSTEM INTO A REGION. THE DCM RECALLED HIS EARLIER STATEMENT TO MADHAVAN THAT THE USG WOULD EXPECT TO CONTINUE ARMS TRANSFERS AS ONE DIMENSION OF ITS RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. MADHAVAN NOTED THAT PRESS REPOTS HAD DESCRIBED ADDITIONAL REASONS WHY THE SALE WAS DENIED. THE DCM REPEATED THAT THE REASON WAS OUR GLOBAL ARMS SALES POLICY. MADHAVAN ALSO MENTIONED PRESS REPORTS THAT THE US HAD INFORMED THE GOP THAT IT MIGHT SEEK OTHER AMERICAN IARCRAFT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 08080 100623Z

THE DCM COMMENTED THAT THE USG WOULD CONSIDER ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR ARMS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF ITS GLOBAL POLICY.

2. MADHAVAN EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION FOR THE USG DECISION ON A-7S AND FOR US CONSIDERATION OF INDIAN VIEWS. HE ALSO WELCOMED US CANDOR IN INFORMING THE

GOI THAT ARMS SALES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MADE TO PAKISTAN: HE BELIEVED IT BEST THAT GOI EXPECTATIONS NOT BE RAISED ABOVE LEVELS JUSTIFIED. MADHAVAN ALSO MAINTAINED THAT THE GOI WAS TRYING TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE OF ARMS SALES IN A RESTRAINED AND MODERATE WAY AND IT HOPED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE UNDERSTOOD. THE GOI CONSIDERED THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S HANDLING OF THE TANK RETROFIT ISSUE IN PARLIAMENT, THE FIRST DIFFICULT ISSUE WHICH THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TO DEAL WITH, WAS IN LOW KEY AND CALCULATED TO AVOID CONTROVERSY. DESPITE INDIA'S FREE PRESS, MADHAVAN SAID, THEY HAD MANAGED TO KEEP THE DESTROYER SALE OUT OF THE PUBLIC EYE. THE GOI WOULD SPEAK TO US FROM TIME TO TIME ABOUT ARMS SALES WHERE THEY BELIEVE THEY AFFECTED AN INDIAN INTEREST BECAUSE NOT DOING SO WOULD IMPLY ASSENT. HOWEVER, IT WILL DO THIS WITH RESTRAINT AND HOPED WE WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WAS A NORMAL ELEMENT OF DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS.

3. COMMENT: BOTH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND MADHAVAN HAVE IN RECENT WEEKS TOLD US THAT THEY WERE TRYING TO DEAL WITH THE ARMS ISSUE IN A MODERATE WAY. OBVIOUSLY REACTING TO REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW RECEIVED FROM THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. WE HAVE REPLIED THAT WE HAVE ACCURATELY REPORTED THEIR COMMENTS ON THE ARMS ISSUE. WE BELIEVE MEA IS NOW AWARE THAT IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IT SPOKE PERHAPS MORE OFTEN AND DIRECTLY THAN NECESSARY AND WILL NOW BE SOMEWHAT MORE CAREFUL HOW CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 08080 100623Z

IT HANDLES THE ISSUE. WE CAN EXPECT, NEVERTHELESS, TO HEAR FROM THE GOI ABOUT MAJOR SALES. WE CAN PROBABLY EXPECT A STRONG REACTION IF THERE IS A SALE OF F-5S. AS A MINIMUM SUCH A SALE WOULD GIVE THE GOI AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER A DIFFICULT PROBLEM IN PARLIAMENT. GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770687/aaaacyka.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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